

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Marital Promise to Obey

By DOROTHY DIX.

A young woman who is going to be married asks me to define the meaning of the word "obey" as it is used in the marriage ceremony.

She says that she is willing to swear to be loyal, faithful and helpful to her husband, but that she expects him to defer to her wishes and judgment as she expects to defer to his, and she has no intention of blindly obeying him, so she hesitates to make a vow that she cannot keep. Therefore she wants to know whether the word "obey" is to be taken literally, or merely figuratively, in the marriage service.



The word "obey" has no meaning whatever in the marriage service. It is nothing but a lie, which should be eliminated, for it forces a woman to commit perjury at the most solemn moment of her life, and at the moment that she should most intend to keep the vows that she is making.

When the modern girl swears at the altar to "obey" the man she is marrying she has no notion whatever of doing so. Her heart may be running over with love for her husband; she may be giving him a boundless devotion, and pledging him every service of brain and hand, but the one thing that she has no expectation whatever of doing is to obey him.

And the man knows this. Whatever else he expects of his wife, he doesn't expect obedience. He doesn't even arrogate to himself the right to be master to her. She is neither a child nor a slave to be ordered about and subject to his commands.

Why should an intelligent woman, old enough to get married, be made to promise to obey? If she has not sense enough and sufficient judgment to know how to conduct her own affairs, and what to do under the stress of life, her place is not at a man's side in a household, but in some institute for the feeble minded.

If marriage is the right sort of a marriage it is a partnership of a man and woman, who unite their fortunes and their lives, and establish a home. Each partner has everything that he or she has in the world invested in this venture, and both should have the same authority.

When two men go into partnership in business there is no question of one obeying the other. They confer together; they discuss ways and means together; each yields certain points to the other, and in this way they work out a harmonious plan of action.

And this plan prevails in every household that is a success. The wife respects her husband's judgment and follows his advice along certain lines. The husband readily admits that his wife's opinion on certain other lines is of more value and weight than his, but neither blindly obeys the other.

There is a theory that in the old days when women were more subject to men than they are at present, the word "obey" in the marriage service literally meant what it says, and when a woman took that vow upon herself she intended to keep it. I doubt this being true. It has ever been the privilege of the slave to deceive the master, and our meek looking grandmothers probably had their tongues in their cheeks. Just as much as we have when they humbly promised to obey the husband they meant to hoodwink while they did as they pleased.

At any rate the independent, intelligent girl of today is not going to give blind obedience to any man just because he is her husband. She hails from Missouri, and has to be shown that his way is a better way than hers. His judgment clearer than her own, before she accepts it.

The old idea that it was necessary for a woman to venerate her husband as an oracle to prove her affection for him is an exploded myth. A man does not necessarily have to be a Solomon in order to be lovable. Indeed, many of the most sympathetic, agreeable and fascinating men in the world are in no danger of setting the river on fire with their brilliancy, and they have wabbling enough judgments.

In many a family the wife is the clear headed one who runs things, and she does it without loss of dignity to her husband or loss of affection for him.

In the face of the actual conditions of modern society it is absurd that women should still be made to promise to "obey" the men they marry when neither the women intend to do it, nor the men expect them to do it. Undoubtedly it goes away with the solemnity of the marriage service for it to be hand-capped with this vow which both parties take in a pickwickian sense.

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Birds of a Feather

No. 1—The Peacock

By Nell Brinkley

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The lovely gardens of the world are unfringed bits of jewelry without a peacock, the high-headed bird, in his aigrette, his splendor of dress and color, his glimmering, his pride, moving like a slash of Maxfield Parrish color across the

lawn, and down the garden stairs.

And even though you may hold it of little use, still is the world without a brilliant note in its song of life if there were no Peacock Lady—gorgeous of hue—crested—and filling her setting—satisfying the hungry eye that roves and delights

in beauty—a gem.

And though I have given her a polished mirror, the dictionary (so it says) holds that the peacock is no vainest bird than any other. And yet when it puts all this after the name—"gorgeous of hue, radiating and pulsing with the moving

tints of the rainbow, green and gold, and blue and bronze, carrying a train of feathers that are eyed in a black-like velvet and rustles with the peculiar sound of stiff silk"—why shouldn't they be vain as Narcissus himself?

NELL BRINKLEY.

Anne Hutchinson

Copyright, 1914, by Star Company. By REV. THOMAS B. GREGORY.

One of the "men who made America" happened to be a woman, and her name was Anne Hutchinson.

This remarkable woman was the daughter of a London clergyman. Marrying in London, she came to Boston in 1631 along with her husband, a man who was destined to be totally eclipsed by his brilliant spouse.



When Mrs. Hutchinson reached Boston she was about 44 years old. All the evidence that we have goes to show that she was a woman of extraordinary intellectual ability and unusual charm and sweetness of temperament and manner; and her bitterest enemies were never able, with all their insinuations and slanders, to find a thing against her womanly purity.

What, then, is the explanation of the wonderful story of Anne Hutchinson? What lay at the bottom of the deep and bitter hatred that the parsons and magistrates felt toward her? Why was she persecuted and finally driven forth into the wilderness to perish?

Simply because she was Anne Hutchinson—a bright, brainy, progressive personality in the midst of ignorance, fanaticism and superstition. Anne Hutchinson was ahead of her time, and she had to pay the penalty of her too early appearance upon the stage.

Justice to America's first "new woman" compels the additional statement that there appears to have been no little personal jealousy at work against her. In brain power, diplomacy and eloquence Anne Hutchinson was head and shoulders above the leaders of the little theocratic colony, could out-think, out-preach and out-draw the regular preachers, and it was determined to put her out of business.

For, observe the fact that right in the midst of the Puritan stronghold Mrs. Hutchinson had established a "woman's meeting," at which the happenings of the day were treated in a most fearless and original way by the organizers of the meeting, and by such others as had the desire and courage to speak out.

Let it not be forgotten that among the other things discussed at the woman's meeting were the ministers' sermons. The discussion seems to have been free, and not always favorable to the ministers' effusions, which fact was, of course, a downright insult in their eyes.

Not only so, but the woman's meeting steadily grew in numbers and influence. One by one the slaters began dropping out from the Sunday congregations to find out what might be the new and strange pabulum that was being dealt out by Mistress Anne Hutchinson. Clearly, the ministers were losing their power and prestige, and something had to be done,

and done quickly. Hence it came about that Anne Hutchinson's woman's meeting was declared to be a menace and she was arrested.

There is abundance of evidence to show that the proceedings were a complete "frame-up," in which the prisoners had not a ghost of a show from start to finish. The loaded dice were thrown, the mock trial came to an end, and the unfortunate woman was found "guilty."

And thus, 27 years ago, did the Puritans excommunicate Mistress Anne Hutchinson, emptying upon her head the vials of their hottest wrath, and casting her out, as they thought and purposed, from the compassion of man and the mercy of heaven.

The outcast, having nowhere else to go, went to Rhode Island, the only spot in this land where Christian's loved one another enough not to want to persecute for honest difference of opinion. She lived until 1642, when she was captured and murdered by a band of Indians.

Anne Hutchinson deserves an exalted place in the history of the country. She was the mother of the "woman's movement" which is today one of the greatest forces of the world. In the work of emancipating woman from the senseless slavery to which she had been so long subjected, Anne Hutchinson was the pioneer of pioneers, and without doubt the Puritan dame is destined, in the fullness of time, to come into her own with flying colors.

Does Time Really Pass Away?

By EDGAR LUCIEN LARKIN.

Q.—A insists that infinite time itself never passes away. The term "passing time" is commonly used, but really time always remains stationary. B maintains that time passes away. Please settle this dispute, according to science.—R. L. G.

A.—All that science is now able to do is to watch by night and by day without ceasing, and high-grade humans are now doing this very thing each hour of each year in the laboratories around the world—watching the exact operation of the laws of nature.

Every law discovered is instantly given to the world and recorded in books. Several hundred rigid laws have been discovered. These are compared with all of the others in every conceivable way. If each will not agree with all the others it is not called a law, but a theory.

A discovery must run a fierce gantlet, and be attacked on all sides, and by the highest mathematics, before it can be printed in the list of laws. With all of the research made by telescope, tele-camera, spectroscopic, biometer, thermopile, pyrometer, ultra-ultra microscope, ultra-micro-photography, photographing the invisible, Roentgen ray analysis, researches in radiant energy and higher researches with the mind maze, laws have been discovered; but as yet no hint, suggestion or trace of any cause has been detected.

England's Royal Bird

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

In England swans are crown property. They are the king's birds, and no subject can legally own a flock of them without the royal permission. Formerly to steal a swan's egg was to risk a year's imprisonment.

By the old English law a special "swan mark" must be put on the bill of every bird owned by a subject under the king's permit, and this marking, or "swan-upping," takes place on the Thames at a fixed date every year, the 1st of August for the old idea of the king's exclusive ownership survives at least in form.

This seems a great deal of honor to pay to a bird, but the swan is worthy of its distinction, for all over the world it is the recognized type of grace, beauty and dignity in the feathered kingdom.

There is an air of legendary mystery about the swan. Some swans are mute, but most have sonorous voices of surprising power and reach. Poetic tradition declares that the swan sings in dying, and so we have the familiar phrase to indicate the last effort of a poet—"swan-song." Othello exclaims, "I will play the swan and die in music." And



Portia says, in the Merchant of Venice, "He makes a swan-like end, fading in music."

A hundred other poets have used similar expressions, and yet naturalists declare that the swan does not make any music in dying, though it may make a noise. And these same naturalists aver that the great vocal powers of swans are due to a special sounding apparatus formed by "the coiling of the long trachea (wind-pipe) within the sternum" (breastbone). The crane, whose trumpet-call, when a flock is setting off for a long, high flight, can be heard from above the clouds, after the birds are out of sight, is furnished with a similar vocal instrument.

The swan is famous for its longevity. It is said to live 100 years, and there is at least one recorded instance of a bird in captivity living seventy years. It is longer-lived than the raven, but, according to some authorities, the goose keeps well up with it in the race for length of years.

There are no birds that live longer, but elephants and whales are credited with a century or more of life, while pike and carp are said to attain 200 years.

England is now the only country in the world where large flocks of swans are kept. The wild birds are found in many lands, and those of North America frequently have a spread of wings of eight feet, and a length from bill to tail of five feet. Those seen along the Atlantic coast breed far north in Canada or Labrador, and winter with wild geese in Chesapeake bay and the North Carolina sounds. There are only about ten species of swan known, and they are all large, beautiful, graceful, grave birds with great power of wing, which enables them to fly high and range widely when once they quit the water for the air.

The presence of wild swans in America was a delightful surprise to some of the earlier settlers, and they inspired what many have regarded as the most beautiful landscape picture in American poetry, Percival's lines on "Seneca lake" beginning:

On thy fair bosom, silver lake,
The wild swan spreads his snowy sail,
And round his breast the ripples break
As down he bears before the gale.

He will have to send his question to a high-salaried metaphysician, not a scientific man. For if that great writer on calculus did not know, who is able to use and explain? But the calculus may yet discover a cause for it is now known to be infinite.

From Bitter Experience.

There was a scare of smallpox in Tommy Tucker's village, in consequence of which there was a hasty rush for vaccination.

Tommy was one of the first of the victims. After the deed was done the doctor proceeded to fix a shield over the sore place.

"Can't I have it on the other arm, doctor?" he asked eagerly.

"Don't be silly, Thomas!" said his mother.

"But I'm putting it over the place where you have just been vaccinated, my boy, so that your school fellows cannot hit you there," exclaimed the doctor.

"I know that, doctor," answered Tommy. "But you see, you don't know the boys at my school; I do. So please put it on the other arm."

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

You Need Courage.
Dear Miss Fairfax: Please give me your advice and help, as I look upon you as my dearest adviser.

I am a young girl and have been kept in company with a young man for some time, but lately he has been coaxing me to try to mislead me, to which I objected, and because I would not consent to this he says he cannot keep company with me any longer and not get anything but love out of it. I have more respect for myself than to let him mislead me, and please tell me, should I quit going with him or what should I do. I love him dearly, but don't you think that if he loves me he will forget about that and act like a gentleman. I do not want to stain my name with anything like that, and would rather give him up before consenting to anything of that kind. My dearest friend, give me your advice as quickly as possible, so that I may keep my soul pure.

This girl has been home now on a visit. Should I write to him or not? I do not feel like it because of his conduct, but for love's sake, I would like to. Please advise me. A FRIEND.

You do not need advice; you need courage and common sense. You surely know this man only means you harm, and you know when you are doing right and when you are doing wrong. If you want to keep your soul pure, have nothing to do with this man, until he can treat you with respect and honor you for your purity, instead of seeking to destroy you.

Try to Cure Her Stiffness.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am 19 years of age and go out with a girl I call my junior. This girl, in an effort to gain my love, has been sending me mysterious letters which are supposed to be from a boy friend of mine who is jealous of me. I will quote a few lines from one of these letters: "Who is the beautiful, sweet, blue-eyed girl I see you walking with when I am not with you? How unfortunate am I!" and other words tending to make her more desirable than I really think she is. I have found that it positively was this girl who wrote these letters. Before I received these letters I thought I might learn to love her, but now I am puzzled and ask your advice in the matter. PUZZLED.

This girl has been doing an absurd and prevent her developing into a very emotional creature who will do all sorts of unworthy things to gain her ends.

To the Ankle.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a girl 13 years old. I am old looking for my age. Every one thinks I am 15 or 16. Will you please tell me how long to wear my stockings?

GEORGIA K.
Ankle-length skirts are the proper thing for you. Talk the matter over with your mother and let her determine when you are to go into long skirts.



Madame Isabella's Beauty Lesson

LESSON XIII—PART II.

Regime for the Thin Woman.

Get at least eight hours' sleep every night in a well aired room. On awakening sip slowly a glass of hot milk or cup of chocolate. Throw the windows wide open and go through the breathing exercises in Lesson X. Follow these by the wand exercises in part II of this lesson. Bathe and dress and you will have a good appetite for breakfast.

For breakfast eat all that appetite demands, but choose food easily digested. Take no fried food, hot cakes or strong tea or coffee. Fruit, cereals and cream, eggs, bacon and buttered toast make a nourishing and not too heavy meal. Hot rolls, graham muffins, stewed fruit, creamed potatoes, creamed flaked fish, broiled fish are all suitable breakfast dishes.

No matter what the weather or your occupation, spend a part of the morning out of doors. Make the early part of the day the busiest. Lunch at 1 o'clock should be light, but nourishing. Soup, preferably one made with cream, a vegetable with cream or butter sauce, a light dessert of stewed fruit or custard and a glass of milk make a satisfying lunch.

I should add here that milk should not be drunk with a meal that includes meat. For this reason it is suitable for lunch, but not for dinner.

After lunch lie down for an hour and sleep if possible. With a little practice sleep will come. Two hours before dinner take a glass of hot milk, malted milk or chocolate with a few biscuits or light cakes. Follow this with a walk or some form of exercise.

Dinner should be the important meal of the day; if practical, have it served in courses, in pleasant company and eat slowly. Dinner should include soup, fish, if one likes it, chicken or a little grilled or roasted meat, several vegetables, salad with olive oil dressing, pudding or fruit. The only beverage is Follow (not food) pure water, but the meal may close with a small cup of black coffee if this does not induce sleeplessness.

Before going to sleep sip a glass of milk with a dry biscuit. This regime gives you nourishment five times a day. Do not eat more often.

Lesson XIII to be continued.

Household Hints.

An oven that is constantly in use requires to be kept scrupulously clean. It should not only have the shelves scrubbed out with soda occasionally, in addition the shelves should be painted with quick lime two or three times a year. An oven treated in this way never becomes cakey with grease, and there is no unpleasant smell when it is being used.

All wooden buckets and washtubs, when not in use, should have about two inches of water left in them. This is especially necessary when they are made of jointed wood, as it prevents them from becoming too dry, and the wood from shrinking so that they leak.

Brown boots and shoes that have stains and spots on them may be renovated by rubbing them with a piece of flannel dipped in methyated spirits, leaving them to dry before polishing.

To remove stains from white flannel shirts and similar things, smear with equal parts of yolk of egg and glycerine. Leave for an hour and wash in the usual way.

Should an extra polish be required on an old grate, first rub the bars with a piece of lemon, after which they will take black lead better and polish more easily.

Allow cabbage water to get quite cold before pouring out. You will find it will leave no unpleasant smell behind, as it does when it is poured away hot.

When boiling green peas add a lettuce leaf and a tablespoonful of sugar, and they will retain their color and have a much better flavor.

The more water used in boiling cabbages, greens, etc., the less objectionable will be the smell given out by them. A piece of bread, tied in muslin and boiled with the cabbage, also mitigates the smell. It should, however, be removed after fifteen minutes' boiling and burnt.

If a room becomes filled with smoke, a towel dipped in vinegar and hot water and wrung out, then taken and thrown above one's head through the room, will remove all smoke in a few moments. A small portion of vinegar in a little water is sufficient for the purpose.

Grass stains may be removed from white clothes by first of all rubbing the soiled parts carefully with a little fresh lard before washing in the usual way. After being treated in this manner the stains will have entirely disappeared.

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